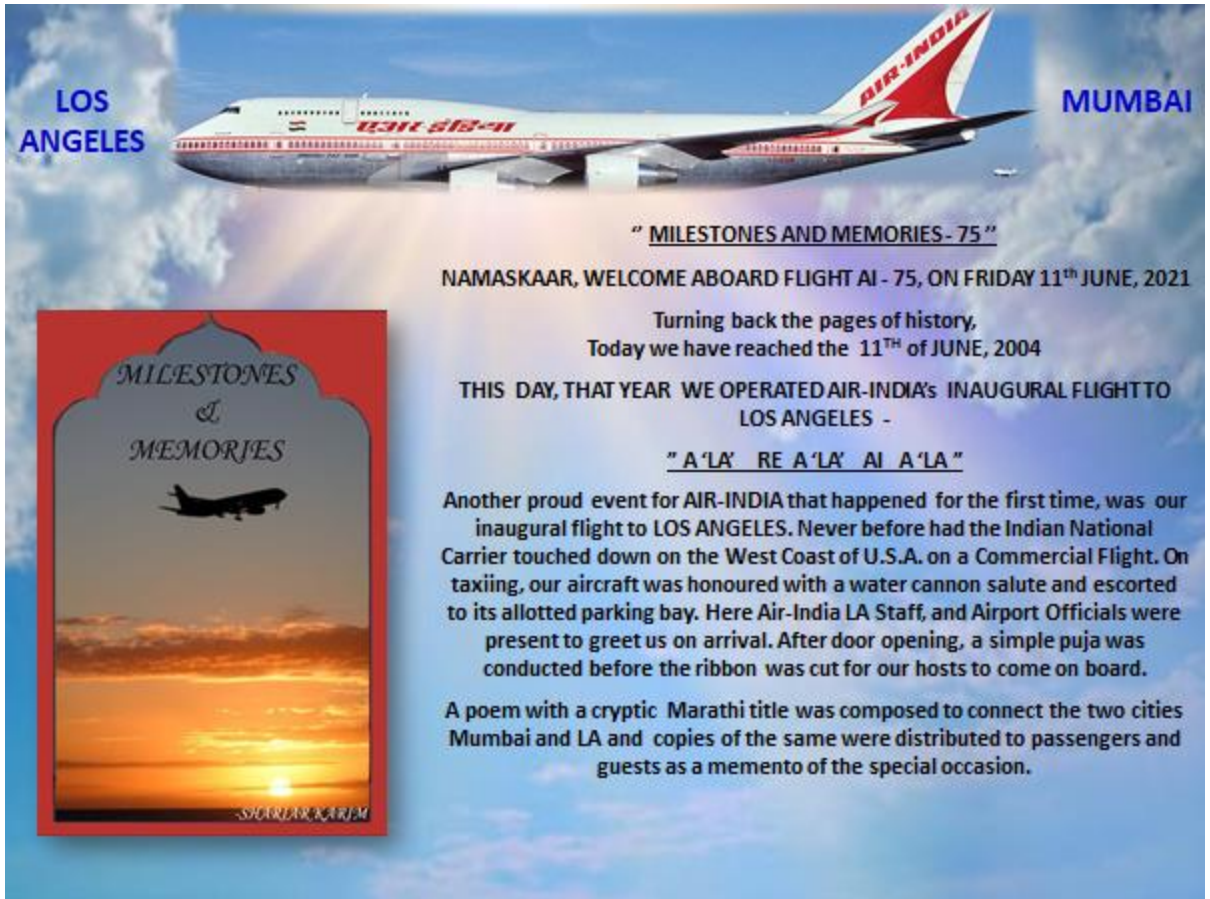


ODYSSEY AI – 75
with Shariar Karim's
“MILESTONES AND MEMORIES”

LAST FLIGHT : AI -74 on 8h June 2021 “50th Anniversary of London Flights”

FLIGHT : THIS FLIGHT: AI -75 on 11th June 2021 “Ala re Ala AI Ala”

NEXT FLIGHT: AI -76 on 12th June 2021 “FLIGHT OF FANCY for THALASSAEMIC CHILDREN”



LOS ANGELES **MUMBAI**

“ MILESTONES AND MEMORIES - 75 ”

NAMASKAAR, WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT AI - 75, ON FRIDAY 11th JUNE, 2021


Turning back the pages of history,
Today we have reached the 11TH of JUNE, 2004

THIS DAY, THAT YEAR WE OPERATED AIR-INDIA'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES -

“ A 'LA' RE A 'LA' AI A 'LA' ”

Another proud event for AIR-INDIA that happened for the first time, was our inaugural flight to LOS ANGELES. Never before had the Indian National Carrier touched down on the West Coast of U.S.A. on a Commercial Flight. On taxiing, our aircraft was honoured with a water cannon salute and escorted to its allotted parking bay. Here Air-India LA Staff, and Airport Officials were present to greet us on arrival. After door opening, a simple puja was conducted before the ribbon was cut for our hosts to come on board.

A poem with a cryptic Marathi title was composed to connect the two cities Mumbai and LA and copies of the same were distributed to passengers and guests as a memento of the special occasion.



*MILESTONES
&
MEMORIES*

SHARIAR KARIM

ALA RE ALA

AI A LA

NAMASKAR Dear Guest, Welcome Aboard,
To our 'New Excitement In The Air'
Relax, in Your 'Palace in the Sky'
And The Airline that Loves You, will take you there.
From the land of the Maharaja,
In Incredible India,
To the City of Angels in amazing America.
From the tinsel world of Bollywood,
To the home of the stars in Hollywood.
From the doyen of our aviation J R D,
To the icon of cartoons Walt Disney.
From the craze for Cricket and the frenzy of Football,
To the passion for Golf and the love for Baseball.
From Bombay Ducks and Chicken Biryani,
To sizzling Hot Dogs and Dill Pastrami.
From west coast to west coast,
We'll build a Bridge across the sky,
Connecting two Cities two Countries,
Two Culture as we fly,
Starting June 11, we'll reach a new high,
LOS ANGELES AHOY! Here comes **MUMBAI.**

-Shariar Karim



On the occasion of AIR INDIA's Inaugural Flight To Los Angeles
June 11 2004.

AIR-INDIA's INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
BOM -FRA -LAX 11.6.2004



PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM FRANKFURT FOR LOS ANGELES

**AIR- INDIA's INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
BOM -FRA - LAX 11.6.2004**



SEND OFF FROM FROM FRANKFURT AIRPORT

**AIR- INDIA's INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
BOM -FRA - LAX 11.6.2004**



READY TO BOARD FROM FRANKFURT FOR DEPARTURE TO LOS ANGELES

**AIR- INDIA's INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
ARRIVAL LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 11.6.2004**



**A WATER CANNON SALUTE SUCH AS THIS WAS ACCORDED TO OUR AIRCRAFT AS IT
TAXIED TO ITS BAY.**

**AIR- INDIA's INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
BOM -FRA - LAX 11.6.2004**



**L-2 DOOR OF THE AIRCRAFT, DECORATED IN FLIGHT BY CABIN CREW
FOR THE GRAND OPENING AT LA**

**AIR-INDIA'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES
BOM -FRA -LAX 11.6.2004**



DOOR OPENING AT LOS ANGELES : PUJA BEING PERFORMED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR USA MRS.SEEMA ANDHARE



Seema Andhare

J&B&D
India Post News Service

LOS ANGELES: June 11 2004 will always be remembered as a landmark in the history of India's aviation. It was a typical sunny Southern California afternoon. At precisely 4:10 pm Air-India's majestic Jumbo, Konarak touched down at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The much-awaited direct connection to India from the West Coast was now a reality. The Boeing 747-400 under the command of Capt M K. Hathi was the first Indian passenger jet to touch the West Coast of North America. It was indeed a historical milestone for Air-India and Indian Aviation.

The Air-India Counter was decorated with balloons and streamers. There were



Uncle Sam stands tall and proud

Travel & Hospitality Post

64 India Post www.indiapost.com June 18, 2004

The Maharaja has landed

Air-India commences West Coast operations

snacks and beverages and a live band playing music. Uncle Sam stood tall and proud entertaining kids and adults alike. Each outgoing passenger was given an Air-India snub. Present at the occasion was Seema Andhare, Air-India's Regional Director for North America along with Virena Khushfina, and Tara Naidu (Air-India's West Coast leading ladies) and John Massey Manager Marketing Programs along with a host of friends and well-wishers.

The passengers who were being offloaded from this historic flight were received at the jetway with traditional aarti and breaking of coconuts. The incoming passengers were given welcome

gifts after they cleared customs and immigration. LAX on its part left no stone unturned in hospitality. On the runway the Konarak was greeted with a water cannon salute at seventy-five yard line. Fire trucks created a water arch to salute the airline and the aircraft on its inaugural touchdown.

Words cannot describe the gracious hospitality of Nancy Cantley, Director Public Relations at LAX. Nancy personally escorted the media persons briefing them on the various aspects pertaining to operations at LAX. The press corps was allowed to go all the way to the entrance of the aircraft. Seema Andhare Regional Director for North America was all



The Konarak Tans to the Terminal

smiles. Talking to *India Post*, she said there will be more flights to the West Coast in the time to come. "Soon we hope to start flights to San Francisco as well," she said.

Currently Air-India is operat-



Seema Andhare talking to Mr. Ty

ing three flights every week between LAX and Mumbai. Air-India's flight A 1-137 will arrive at 4:35 pm every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from Mumbai via Frankfurt.

The return flight will be the same day at 7:10 pm. By October this year the frequency will increase to five flights a week. In next year Air-India expects to operate a daily flight.

Continued on page 65



Passengers checking in



Air India's Konarak approaching LAX

Air-India commences West Coast operations

Cont'd from page 64

"We also hope to connect Delhi very soon," said Seema Andhare.

Capt. M K Hathi is Director Operations. He is also the man who commanded Air-India's inaugural flight to LA. "For the past six months I have been waiting impatiently for this to happen. I am happy to be the Captain for the first flight to LA," he said.

The passengers too were happy about the flights. "It is high time this started- the Pacific route is mending and the long layovers in between are unbearable. This is quick and convenient," said a

lady waiting to check in. Currently Air-India provides the fastest connection between LA and Mumbai. It gets to Mumbai in under twenty hours including a two hour halt at

Currently Air-India provides the fastest connection between LA and Mumbai. It gets to Mumbai in under twenty hours including a two hour halt at Frankfurt

Frankfurt.

The aircraft, a Boeing 747-400 called Konarak was one majestic bird. True to the tradition of the Air-India's Maharaja, the Konarak stood proud and tall obscuring the German and Chinese jumbos that stood alongside. No other aircraft could claim such glory and grandeur as the Air-India jet.

The return flight to Mumbai scheduled for the same day was totally sold out. Departing passengers were given a gift pack courtesy Air-India. Capt. Deepak Anand and Capt. Sarabjit Singh commanded the flight.

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Passengers sporting Air India sashes



Tara Naidu (2nd from left) welcomes the flight